



THE GOOD NEWS OF GRACE

August 2025

A Newsletter for Members and Friends of
Grace Lutheran Church
1408 Washington Street
Wenatchee, WA 98801-2555
Volume 9 Issue 6



Dear People of Grace;

We are at the beginning of year of internship here at Grace. I remember fondly the interns we have hosted since 2015: Bethany, Ian, Donna, Wayne, Jenna, Bergen, Anna, Dane, and Lynnette. We were blessed to know all our interns and we celebrate the ministry that is continuing through them. Lasting friendships have formed, and I know many of us here at Grace continue to stay in touch. Soon, we will welcome Laura Olsen to our community. Like all pastoral interns at Grace, Laura will be a blessing to us. She will be part of our lives during a unique time as we look toward the completion of our renovation and a sense of the next ministry chapter for our congregation. We are so grateful for the use of the O'Daffers' Accessory Dwelling Unit (think of a one-bedroom standalone apartment); Laura will be arriving August 16, worshiping with us August 17, and will begin her time of formation with me Monday the 18th. Please note a short introduction and photo shared by Laura for this month's newsletter.

Here are a few things I want to say about the role of the internship site.

1. The intern is a student. Laura will be practicing leadership, will be in leadership roles, but always in the context of being a learner. She will have much to offer the community because the gifts she brings are unique to her, but some experiences will be quite new. Our internship site is part of her education. Rather than seeing our site as a workplace for Laura, you are encouraged to see it as a learning environment.
2. Grace is something we practice. Pastoral interns are encouraged to be courageous in how they practice ministry. They are encouraged to be innovative and imaginative and try new ideas on for size. There will be times when the pastoral intern feels badly about how something went. We are people of Grace, and we are called to practice grace to provide emotional and spiritual safety for the intern as she continues her path of internship. I simply encourage you to help Laura know that underneath every element of pastoral formation there is both the love of Christ and the love of the Body of Christ, which is you.
3. Ministry is tough, and there are times the pastoral intern will need to unplug and rejuvenate. Laura will grow to love the congregation, and you will love her. These relationships will develop quickly, and many invitations will come her way. If she is hesitant about meeting up for a meal or outing, please do not be offended. She will want to be present for you emotionally, and that means caring for herself by creating blocks of time to be unavailable.
4. The internship committee exists to be a support system for the intern, to delve into topics that may be confidential in nature, and to generally reflect with the intern from the congregational point of view. The committee helps the intern feel welcome and oriented to the congregation and the community. They also write mid-year and final evaluations of the intern as part of the internship program. Thank you to Mark Woolsey for agreeing to lead this committee.
5. As you introduce yourself to Laura, be sure to use your name often until she becomes more familiar with the whole congregation.

Thank you for being part of the ministry of internship at Grace! You have a role in helping Laura have a wonderful year here in our community.

Peace to you,
Pastor James Aalgaard

THE MISSION OF GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH



To proclaim and celebrate the gospel of Jesus Christ through word and sacraments so that a community of believers is created, trained, nurtured, and sent into mission.

Welcome Pastoral Intern Laura Olsen!

We welcome Laura Olsen to Grace as our intern for 2025/26! Here is a short bio for us to start to get acquainted. We anticipate Laura will be with us in worship August 17, then beginning her twelve month full time internship and staying at the ADU (accessory dwelling unity) owned by Sara and Dean O'Daffer. Thank you O'Daffer's for this generous gift to Laura and the Church!

Laura grew up in Black Diamond, WA, and worked for years as a designer, art director, and drummer in rock bands before sensing a call to ministry. A three-time cancer survivor, she found that call during a sabbatical spent serving in her home congregation's office. She recently completed Master of Divinity coursework at Wartburg Theological Seminary and is excited to begin her internship at Grace Lutheran. Laura lives in Federal Way with her husband, Guy (her editor-in-chief, guitar coach, and co-conspirator), two nearly-launched sons, Eric and Ian, and their border collie Buddy. Their middle son Kyle and his wife Nicole both serve in the Air Force in Hawaii. She trusts in grace that meets us in our weakness (2 Cor 12:9–10) and builds us up in love (Eph 4:11–13).



(Did someone say haiku?)
Survivor of storms,
Art, music, truth, and mercy—
Called to shepherd love.

Blessings,
Laura Olsen

ANNA & MIRIAM CIRCLES

Anna Circle will meet on Tuesday, August 19, at 10:00 a.m. at Grace. If you have questions, feel free to contact [Linda Sinnett](#) or [Faye DeJong](#).

Miriam Circle will meet on Tuesday, August 19, at 7:00 p.m. at Linden Tree Park. If you have questions, please contact the church office.

Summer Evening Prayer Services

We have the opportunity to gather for prayer, meditation, song and readings using the worship format based in Taizé, France. Taizé music is known for its easy-to-learn refrains and layered harmonies. It is often accompanied with guitar, flute, piano, or other acoustic instruments. Time for quiet reflection and prayer will be offered. This prayer service will not include Holy Communion. We will meet at the following locations:

- Sunday, August 3 @ 7pm – Celebration Lutheran Church (801 8th St NE, East Wenatchee)
- Sunday, August 17 @ 7pm – St. Luke's Episcopal Church (428 King St, Wenatchee)



Staff Sticky Notes

- Pastor James is on vacation July 28 – August 1.
- Deacon Ruth will be on vacation August 5 – 8, 24–31.



Intergenerational Choir August 10

Singers of all ages are invited to participate in an intergenerational choir. We will meet at 9:00 in the Rehearsal Room to prepare an accessible music offering for worship that morning. (Use the office entrance near the playground.) Join us!

Hike and Seek

August 8—Change of plans: Unfortunately, Silver Falls trail, our planned destination on the Entiat Road, is closed due to the Pomas fire. We'll have to try again next year for that one.

We have chosen the Icicle Gorge Nature Loop as a replacement. It's an easier hike with a gentle grade and scenic views of Icicle Creek, gorge, and the surrounding forest. It's also a good place for bird spotting. It's a loop hike, 4.2 miles total with very little elevation gain. And it's a great hike for kids, so bring the family.

A Northwest Forest Pass or Golden Age Pass is required for parking. It's payable on site. We have an extra pass available for one car.

It's about a 1-hour drive to the trailhead which is near the end of Icicle Creek Road. There are many interpretive signs along the trail, and we will take it at a slow pace so that we have time to take it all in. It will probably take us about 2 and a half hours to complete it. Add time for a lunch stop and another 1 hour drive back to the church, making a total of at least 5 and a half hours for the entire trip.

Meet at the west side of the church parking lot at 9 am.

Bring water, lunch, bug spray and an extra layer of clothing.

More info at: <https://www.wta.org/go-hiking/hikes/icicle-gorge-loop>
Judy Olson: 415 722 6408 or olsonjm@nwi.net



Hike and Seek June 20, 2025

Upcoming Hike and Seek Dates:

- Friday, August 8, Icicle Gorge. Leave the Grace parking lot at 9:00 a.m.
- Thursday, August 21, evening hike – destination TBD.

Fall Worship Schedule Begins September 7

We will return to our Fall schedule on **Sunday, September 7**, with worship at **10:30 a.m.** Please join us!



Graceful Garden Team News

The Team gained two new members this year: Sharon Bolz and Dianne Gillin recently joined Dean O'Daffer, Eli Henson, Ethan Ritch, Julie Banken, Jayke Olson, Sherry Krebs and Linda Sinnett. They have been busy planting, maintaining and harvesting five of the raised beds. The other thirteen boxes are rented to individuals and families. Take time to stroll through the garden and enjoy the tranquil atmosphere of this lovely space.



Since Grace doesn't have a pantry during construction, the garden produce is being taken to the pantry at First United Methodist Church on Washington. If you have extra produce or wish to purchase non-perishable food to help those who need assistance, please place in the pantry on the south side of their parking lot close to Miller.

Occasionally on Sundays, Graceful Garden produce will be placed in the narthex for members of the congregation to take. Please watch for it and take what you can use.



Pedals, Pipes and Pizza



More than 2 dozen area piano students and family members participated in a ***Pedals, Pipes and Pizza*** event to learn about pipe organs in Wenatchee. Several students took the opportunity to play.



Fascinated students take a peek at the organ's blower and other interior parts.

GLC Ukelele Ensemble



The Ukulele Ensemble accompanied Growing in Grace children during worship on Sunday, June 22.



The Ukulele Ensemble led singing during the End of Life seminar at Celebration Lutheran.

Generations in Grace

Several generations gathered in June and July to enjoy food, Christian fellowship, Bible stories, and intergenerational activities. Children then took advantage of separate play time while adults shared in conversation.



Washington Park



Walla Walla Point Park



Rocky Reach Park

Building Update

It has been a while since you have seen an update on the progress of the renovation project! Here are a few highlights.



- The retaining wall for the patio between the Admin and Fellowship Hall wings has been built. Excavators have back-filled and prepped the area for concrete sidewalks. The roof of the new narthex space and main entrance has been weatherproofed with underlayment in preparation for shingling.
- Installation of siding has begun at the main entrance.
- We had an electrical scare on Friday July 18. A transformer in the neighborhood came offline (maybe another squirrel incident?). When power was reestablished, there was a larger than normal power surge resulting in the destruction of a temporary power box owned by the construction company. We also discovered that several power strips in the church were hit, making them unusable. We also discovered that unfortunately a number of control panels for our Air Conditioning were struck.

We are still moving forward and are grateful for the opportunity to see these improvements to completion.



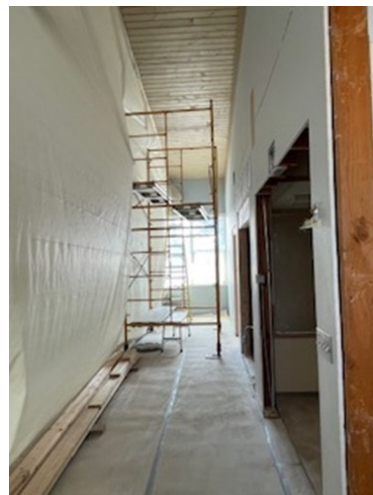
Work continues below the Fellowship Hall.



The roof takes shape.



Asbestos abatement took place behind this plastic sheeting in the Fellowship Hall.





Kitchen demolition



A retaining wall goes up for the back patio space.



Work on the dry well to improve drainage.



The new narthex area is taking shape.



JUNE



MAY

May & June Game
Nights held at
Celebration Lutheran
Church during Grace's
renovations.



JULY
2025



Grace Lutheran's July
Game Night held at
Celebration Lutheran
Church during
renovations.



3rd Friday each month
6:00-8:30 p.m.



Everyone has had fun
getting to know our
brothers and sisters from
Celebration. We hope you
will join us for an evening
of fellowship with your
friends from Grace while
making new friends!

August Worship Assistants

	Greeters	Assisting Minister	Lector	Altar Guild	Tech	Communion Assistant
8/3		Lisa Zanol	Dee Ann Gregg		Marlena La Paz	Karen Zanol
8/10			Tami Woolsey	Tami Woolsey	Chad DuLac	
8/17		Kate Gregg		Rose Applegate	Phil Gregg	Colleen Smith
8/24			Riva Morgan	Tami Woolsey	Erik Olson	Colleen Smith
8/31			Joyce Owens	Denise Miller	Marlena La Paz	

Seeking Worship Helpers

Volunteer helpers make our worship run smoothly. We would love to expand our volunteer pool. [Here is a link to a "google sheet"](#) where you can put your name on an open slot. If you are having a hard time navigating the google sheet, please call (509-663-2189) or email our [church office](#) or [Pastor Aalgaard](#) and we can help.

Please note! The google sheet is a single document that can be changed (and added to) by anyone who has the link. You are very welcome to add your name to a slot that's empty, but please do not remove others' names or otherwise change the form.

LECTIONARY READINGS

Sunday, August 3 8th Sunday after Pentecost

Ecclesiastes 1:2,
12-14; 2:18-23
Psalm 49:1-12
Colossians 3:1-11
Luke 12:13-21

Sunday, August 10 9th Sunday after Pentecost

Genesis 15:1-6
Psalm 33:12-22
Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16
Luke 12:32-40

Sunday, August 17 10th Sunday after Pentecost

Jeremiah 23:23-29
Psalm 82
Hebrews 11:29—12:2
Luke 12:49-56

Sunday, August 24 11th Sunday after Pentecost

Isaiah 58:9b-14
Psalm 103:1-8
Hebrews 12:18-29
Luke 13:10-17

Sunday, August 31 12th Sunday after Pentecost

Proverbs 25:6-7a
Psalm 112
Hebrews 13:1-8,
15-16
Luke 14:1, 7-14



The bass section of Voices of Grace received its award at an end-of-season celebration.



Dn. Ruth made a presentation at The Hymn Society's Detroit conference with composer/lyricist Pr. Rusty Edwards.



Join Us For Game Night

Friday, August 22
6:00-8:00 p.m.

Celebration Lutheran Church
801 8th St NE, East Wenatchee



Bring your family and friends, and your favorite game if you have one. Please bring an appetizer to share; beverages will be provided. EVERYONE is invited to an evening of fun and fellowship!

Morning Prayer

We invite you to Morning Prayer, meeting Thursday mornings at 7:00 a.m. (as an effort to accommodate people's work schedules). The following is a description of our typical morning prayer routine:

- + a time of reflecting/sharing together about the upcoming scripture for Sunday
- + lighting candles during a time of informal prayers, which can be offered aloud or silently
- + light refreshments and fellowship afterward at approximately 7:40 a.m.

It's a great way to start the day! Hope to see you there.

PRAYERS OF GRACE

- ◆ *Donna Bates (Ruth Simmons' sister)* - prayers for healing following emergency surgery.
- ◆ *David Thomas (Marshall Thomas' brother)* - prayers for healing as he faces serious health issues.
- ◆ *Elizabeth Revelise (Chris Prince's wife)* – for healing, strength and the rebuilding of immunity as she finishes chemotherapy.
- ◆ *Jim Wurl* – as he builds strength to walk.
- ◆ *Fern Keith* – for healing. Fern is at Regency following a fall.
- ◆ *Family and friends of Jackson Dunckel* – prayers for peace and comfort as we mourn Jackson's death.
- ◆ *Dan Hutchison* – prayers that he will be able to receive help for a medical concern. Also, emotional support for Joe Trowbridge as he navigates this time for Dan.
- ◆ *John McQuaig* – John had knee replacement surgery on July 9. Prayers for healing.
- ◆ *Sue Garness* – Sue had hip replacement surgery on July 7. Prayers for healing.
- ◆ *Dan Martinson (Ann Bartlett's brother)* – heart valve replacement was successful. Blessings and many thanks for your prayers. Dan also thanks you for your continued prayers.
- ◆ *Bonnie Howeler* – now living in an adult care home in Kirkland.
- ◆ *Paul Arndt* - pulmonary fibrosis which is untreatable.
- ◆ *Patty Christensen* - receiving hospice care.
- ◆ *Erling Rivedal* - receiving hospice care.

To submit a prayer, please call (509-663-2189) or email our [church office](#) or [Pastor Aalgaard](#). Please share with us details that are pertinent to the request. If you are asking us to pray for a person other than yourself, please seek that person's permission. Prayer requests are published for four weeks. You are welcome to resubmit your request if you would like it to remain on the list longer. Updates are welcome, also. We will do our best to help your request have a balance of privacy protection and sharing information. The ministry staff at Grace reserves the right to edit requests.

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

Don Ball	8/1	Landyn Rookard	8/12	Aubree Hill	8/25
Andria Hwang	8/1	Keith Garness	8/13	Zachary Banken	8/26
Mark Kulaas	8/3	Meghan Johnson	8/15	Bill Gale	8/26
Kathy Otheim	8/4	Howard Morris	8/16	Cheryl Salter	8/26
Brian Vertrees	8/5	Liam Schmidt	8/17	Joyce Owens	8/28
Hannah Smallbeck	8/6	John McQuaig	8/18	Eli Henson	8/29
Milly Damish	8/12	Ron Fleisher	8/20	Gregg Romey	8/29
Logan Florea	8/12	Miles Thompson	8/24	Jay Widby	8/29



Jackson Dunckel was confirmed in the Christian faith through Affirmation of Baptism on Pentecost Sunday, June 8.



Omar AbouAmmo, Olson Organ Scholar, played two pieces in our worship service on July 27.



The AbouAmmo family with scholarship namesake Judy Olson.

TREASURER TALK :**6/30/25 Results**

Offerings for the first six months totaled \$223,004. This is \$1,996 under budget. Offerings for the first 6 months compared to last year are down by \$12,019. Interest income for the first 6 months totaled \$41,862. This is over budget by \$26,862. Expenses were \$258,804 which is \$12,555 under budget. Resulting Net Margin \$6,062 compared to the projected deficit of (\$31,359).

	Jan-June 2024	Jan-June 2025	2025 Budget	Variance
Total Offerings, & Misc	\$235,023	\$223,004	\$225,000	(1,996)
Total Interest	\$36,536	\$41,862	\$15,000	\$26,862
Total Income	\$271,560	\$264,866	\$240,000	\$24,866
Operating Expenses	(\$261,611)	(258,804)	(271,359)	12,555
Net Margin (Deficit)	\$9,948	\$6,062	(\$31,359)	\$37,421

Cash on hand is \$179,484 which includes Treasurer Reserve \$40,000.

	06/30/24	6/30/24
Cash Surplus Position	\$132,379	\$139,484
Treasurer Reserve	40,000	40,000
Deficit Reserve		_____
Total	\$172,379	\$179,484

[Dennis Burgett](#)

COUNCIL CORNER

July 24, 2025

- Council liquidated \$841k in bonds and equities from UBS holdings and moved funds to a 4% UBS money market.
- Construction project is working through fine details and is projecting completion early November.
- Printing for the new directory is delayed but anticipated having printed copies to Grace by the last week of July.
- The Semi-Annual Congregation meeting will be held on September 28th.

2025 TEAM & COMMITTEE LEADERS

Arts: Marshall Thomas
Building & Grounds: Dave Coe, Tom Gausman
Endowment: Karen Zanol
Faith Formation: *Open*
Fellowship: *Open*
Graceful Garden: Linda Sinnett
Pastoral Support: Julie Banken
Staff Support: *Open*
Social Concerns: Mike Sweeney,
Bob Bartlett
Stream Team: Marlana La Paz
Worship: Kathy Gavin
Youth & Community: Sue Coe
Memorial Garden: Ernie Bentsen

2025 CHURCH COUNCIL

President: Suellen Harris
Vice President: Dave Coe
Treasurer: Dennis Burgett
Secretary: Chad DuLac
Members-at-Large: Tory Schmidt
John McQuaig
Paula Salter
Tami Woolsey



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL
"Who Do You Say I Am?"
 August 11 - 14 * 9:00am - 12:00pm
 Trinity United Methodist Church,
 850 N. James Ave, East Wenatchee

4 yrs old - 5th grade
 Registration is OPEN online
 at FirstUMChurch.org

Volunteers are NEEDED!
 Contact the office or
 register online.

Join your friends from Grace Lutheran, First United Methodist, New Song, St. Luke's Episcopal, and Sunnyslope churches at our joint VBS this August! \$20 per child, maximum \$50 per family (scholarships are available).

Registration Information

Use the QR code below to register or sign up at www.firstumchurch.org.



Volunteer to Help make VBS a Success! There are several areas you can serve:

Classroom assistants
 Snack Team leaders/assistants
 Worship leaders/assistants
 Activity leaders/assistants
 Organizational help

You can sign up as a volunteer by using the QR code below or at www.firstumchurch.org.



Generations in Grace

Change in Location for August 2

We have changed the location of our August 2 gathering. We will be meeting at the parking lot at the end of Canyon Road 2. Let's start from the Grace Lutheran parking lot at 8:45 a.m. When we get to the parking lot, we will enjoy breakfast together, a song and then a pilgrimage around the meadow. The path is gentle and well-marked. The last stretch of road before the parking lot is a bit rough - four-wheel-drive vehicles are recommended. We can carpool from Grace. See you there!

All ages are welcome!

Final Generations in Grace Gathering for Summer 2025:

Sunday, August 24, 12:00 p.m. at Rotary Park splash pad (North Shelter)

Please rsvp by the Wednesday before each date to our church office:

office@glcwen.org or 509-663-2189



August 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2 8:45 a.m. Generations in Grace (meet at Grace parking lot)
3 9:30 a.m. Worship 7:00 p.m. Taizé Evening Prayer (Celebration Lutheran)	4	5	6 11:00 a.m. Lectionary Study	7 7:00 a.m. Morning Prayer 3:00 p.m. VBS Training (Trinity UMC) 6:30 p.m. Book Club	8 9:00 a.m. Hike & Seek	9
10 9:00 a.m. Intergenerational Choir Rehearsal 9:30 a.m. Worship 11:00 a.m. Arts Team	11 9:00 —12:00 VBS (Trinity UMC, East Wenatchee)	12 9:00 —12:00 VBS (Trinity UMC, East Wenatchee) 3:30 p.m. Building & Grounds Team	13 9:00 —12:00 VBS (Trinity UMC, East Wenatchee) 11:00 a.m. Lectionary Study	14 9:00 —12:00 VBS (Trinity UMC, East Wenatchee) 7:00 a.m. Morning Prayer 5:30 p.m. BBT Board 6:30 p.m. Book Club	15 5:00 p.m. VBS Water, Worship & Food Truck Night (Walla Walla Park)	16
17 9:30 a.m. Worship 7:00 p.m. Taizé Evening Prayer (St. Luke's Episcopal)	18	19 10:00 a.m. Anna Circle 6:00 p.m. Church Council 7:00 p.m. Miriam Circle	20 11:00 a.m. Lectionary Study	21 7:00 a.m. Morning Prayer 5:00 p.m. Graceful Garden 6:30 p.m. Book Club	22 6:00 p.m. Game Night at Celebration Lutheran	23 5:30 p.m. Bells of Grace at Woolsey's home
24 9:30 a.m. Worship 12:00 p.m. Generations in Grace (Rotary Park North Shelter)	25	26	27 11:00 a.m. Lectionary Study	28 7:00 a.m. Morning Prayer 6:30 p.m. Book Club	29	30
31 9:30 a.m. Worship						

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH
Evangelical Lutheran Church In America
1408 Washington Street
Wenatchee, WA 98801-2555
(509) 663-2189

Return Service Requested

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH STAFF

Pastor James Aalgaard Pastor
pastor@glcwen.org

Deacon Ruth Anderson Director of Music Ministries
deacon@glcwen.org

Jen Gale Office Administrator
office@glcwen.org

Ann Martinson-Bartlett Office Assistant

SUNDAY WORSHIP

9:30 a.m.

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS
Tuesday - Thursday 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

CONTACT
(509) 663-2189
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WEBSITE
www.glcwen.org